

NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 11

May 2020

All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

U.S. Supreme Court sidesteps major gun rights ruling but more cases loom

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a challenge to New York City restrictions on handgun owners transporting their firearms outside the home, meaning the justices for now will not be wading into the battle over the scope of the right to bear arms under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.

But there are other cases pending that could give the court's conservative majority a chance to widen gun rights including challenges to assault weapon bans in Massachusetts and Cook County, Illinois, and permit requirements to carry firearms outside the home in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland.

The justices threw out the New York dispute because the measure that was challenged by individual gun owners and the state's National Rifle Association affiliate was rolled back by the city last July, rendering the case moot. The city had asked the Supreme Court not to hear the matter. The justices went ahead and heard arguments on Dec. 2 but ultimately agreed with the city.

The case was sent back to lower courts to determine whether the gun owners may seek damages or press claims that the amended law still infringes their rights. Justice Samuel Alito, in a dissent joined by fellow conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, said the case was not moot and that the city's law violated the Second Amendment.

Conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh, while agreeing that the current dispute is moot, said in a concurring opinion that the court "should address that issue soon."

President Donald Trump's administration had supported the NRA and gun owners in the New York case. The powerful lobby group is closely aligned with U.S. conservatives and Republicans including Trump.

Gun control proponents had feared that the justices would use the case to expand gun rights by either extending the right to possess firearms for self-defense beyond the home or by creating a strict standard that would force lower courts to cast a skeptical eye on new or existing gun control laws.

Such a ruling could have threatened a wide array of gun control measures nationwide such as expanded background checks for gun buyers and "red flag" laws targeting the firearms of people deemed dangerous by the courts, according to these advocates.

The case focused on New York City's handgun "premises" licenses that allowed holders to transport their firearms only to a handful of shooting ranges within the city and to hunting areas elsewhere in the state during designated hunting seasons. The city's ordinance was amended last year to remove the restrictions challenged in the case.

The issue of gun rights is contentious in the United States, which has experienced a succession of mass shootings in recent decades that have prompted calls from many Americans for stricter regulation of firearms and ammunition. But, citing the Second Amendment, the NRA and gun rights advocates have consistently resisted most firearms control measures.

The Manhattan-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the regulation advanced the city's interest in protecting public safety and did not violate the Second Amendment.

The plaintiffs - local handgun owners and the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association - appealed to the Supreme Court.

The high court's last major gun rulings came in 2008 and 2010 when it recognized for the first time that the Second Amendment protects a person's right to keep a gun at home for self-defense and then extended that decision to the states.

-- Reuters April 27, 2020

* * *

Justice Samuel Alito issued a lengthy dissent in which he not only disputed whether the case is moot, but tore into the original New York City law as clearly unconstitutional.

"In sum, the City's travel restriction burdened the very right recognized in *Heller*," Alito said, referring to the landmark gun rights case. "History provides no support for a restriction of this type. The City's public safety arguments were weak on their face, were not substantiated in any way, and were accepted below with no serious probing. And once we granted review in this case, the City's public safety concerns evaporated."

While the case is a defeat for gun rights advocates, there may be a silver lining for those who wish to see the Supreme Court reinforce Second Amendment rights in the near future. With Kavanaugh, Alito, Thomas and Gorsuch all putting their names on opinions raising concerns about infringement of gun rights, there appears to be a large enough contingent of justices with a desire to boost such rights to force the court to hear future cases on the issue -- likely without the messy procedural issues in the New York case.

The Supreme Court agrees to hear cases under the "rule of four,"

meaning that if just four justices want the court to accept a case, the court will hear it. "This case is not moot," Alito concluded.

"The City violated petitioners' Second Amendment right, and we should so hold." -- foxnews.com

Surge in US gun sales and online searches raises fears of rise in suicides

A surge in gun-related Google searches and estimated gun sales in the US during the worst public health emergency in modern history could lead to higher suicide rates, experts have warned.

From early March to mid-April, US residents conducted roughly 2.1m Google searches about buying and cleaning guns, according to Everytown for Gun Safety and shared exclusively with the Guardian. Those numbers signaled a 158% increase from what would have been expected absent the coronavirus pandemic.

Estimated gun sales soared to 2.58m in March, Small Arms Analytics and Forecasting reported, an 85.3% jump from the same time last year.

Suicides already account for almost two-thirds of gun-related fatalities in the US, although the lion's share of suicide attempts don't include guns.

Now, because of Covid-19, the economy has been devastated, victims of child abuse and domestic violence are trapped at home with their perpetrators and, generally, people are physically distanced and socially isolated. All of these phenomena pose risks for suicide, said Nadine J Kaslow, a professor at the Emory University school of medicine and a former president of the American Psychological Association.

"Obviously, not everybody who gets a firearm is going to use it to take their own life. People are getting these firearms for lots of different reasons. But it's [a] subgroup of people, and it's a subgroup we have to be, in my opinion, very concerned about," said Kaslow.

Everytown for Gun Safety found that the states with the greatest surges in gun-related searches were at that time considered to be Covid-19 hotspots. Many of them, including New York, California and Connecticut, usually have low gun ownership rates, compared with the rest of the nation.

Anecdotal evidence also suggests that many of the buyers were first-time gun owners. That distribution

matters because it exposes an entire family to a new and potentially deadly weapon, explained Matt Miller, a professor of health sciences and epidemiology at Northeastern University.

Before the pandemic, roughly one in three US households owned a gun.

Others, however, are genuinely alarmed by the trend of people buying guns or bringing them out of storage during a pandemic.

"There's little doubt that we're gonna see increased rates of domestic violence and child abuse. There's little doubt that we're going to see people get into socio-economically dire situations," said Eric Fleegler, a physician and researcher at Boston children's hospital.

Fleegler warned that the US is "primed for a suicide epidemic triggered by Covid-19", a tragedy that's both "predictable and preventable", partially by limiting gun access. And, he said, the consequences of guns being so readily available during a time of crisis could far outlast a single pandemic, a warning echoed by other experts.

"Guns are a durable item," Fleegler said. "They last for years, decades. And the risk associated with them will last as well."

-- theguardian.com 28 April 2020

Two Billionaires Demonstrate the Limits of Money in Elections

Two and a half weeks after Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) slammed Michael Bloomberg for trying to "buy this election," the former NYC mayor left the presidential race having spent \$570 million of his own money to win 58 delegates – 3 percent of the number needed to secure the Democratic nomination. Tom Steyer, the other billionaire in the race, did even worse, abandoning his campaign after spending more than \$250 million and earning zero delegates.

Those spectacular failures should give pause to the politicians and activists who think money poses such a grave threat to democracy that the Constitution must be amended to authorize limits on campaign spending. Bloomberg and Steyer – who outspent former VP Joe Biden by factors of more than eight and nearly four, respectively – demonstrated that no amount of money can buy victory for candidates who fail to persuade voters....— Reason June 2020

Patriots Kicker Rohrwasser will remove 'shameful' rightwing militia tattoo

New England Patriots kicker Justin Rohrwasser has said he will remove a tattoo that depicts the insignia of a rightwing militia.

Rohrwasser was drafted by the Patriots in the fifth-round of last week's NFL draft but users on social media swiftly pointed out that he had a tattoo of the Three Percenters on his arm. The group, which advocates for gun rights, has been described as a rightwing militia. They have also been accused of advocating against immigrants, refugees and minorities.

Rohrwasser had the Three Percenters tattoo as early as 2015, which was still seven years after the Three Percenters' formation.

The 23-year-old initially said he would cover the tattoo but on Monday he told WBZ-TV in Boston that he would have it completely removed. "As soon as I saw what it was linked to, it was exactly that time I knew I had to get it totally taken off my body," he said. "It's shameful that I had it on there ignorantly."

The Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League describe the Three Percenters as an anti-government extremist group. Members of the group were present at the Unite The Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017, although the Three Percenters have subsequently said they do not support white supremacy, and are not a militia.

"I went on to Twitter. I saw that someone had taken a picture of me and put it with my tattoo and linking me to some horrific events – obviously Charlottesville and these horrible things."

Rohrwasser, who played college football at Marshall, said he had initially got the tattoo as he thought it was a tribute to the military.

"It was described to me as the percentage of colonists that rose up against the government of the British," he said. "I was like, 'Wow, that is such an American sentiment, a patriotic sentiment.' Coming from a military family, I thought that really spoke to me. I always was proud to be an American. I'm very proud to be an American."

It may also be the case that Rohrwasser is aware that he had a tattoo linked with the far-right in a league where 68% of players are black. -- theguardian.com 28 April 2020

Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism's design is to divide and conquer the American people and, most disturbingly of all, curtail the political freedoms (especially speech and thought) that have made America great. The left will settle for nothing less than the eclipse and transformation of the old American principles of justice – equal protection of equal rights – into a new caste system based on racial, sexual, and gender identities. – Claremont Institute 2018-2019 Biennial Report

Review: *The Diversity Delusion* by Heather Mac Donald

America is in crisis, from the university to the workplace. Toxic ideas first spread by higher education have undermined humanistic values, fueled intolerance, and widened divisions in our larger culture. Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton? Oppressive. - American history? Tyranny. - Professors correcting grammar and spelling, or employers hiring by merit? Racist and sexist. - Students emerge into the working world believing that human beings are defined by their skin color, gender, and sexual preference, and that oppression based on these characteristics is the American experience. Speech that challenges these campus orthodoxies is silenced with brute force.

The Diversity Delusion argues that the root of this problem is the belief in America's endemic racism and sexism, a belief that has engendered a metastasizing diversity bureaucracy in society and academia. Diversity commissars denounce meritocratic standards as discriminatory, enforce hiring quotas, and teach students and adults alike to think of themselves as perpetual victims. From #MeToo mania that blurs flirtations with criminal acts, to implicit bias and diversity compliance training that sees racism in every interaction, Heather Mac Donald argues that we are creating a nation of narrowed minds, primed for grievance, and that we are putting our competitive edge at risk.

But there is hope in the works of authors, composers, and artists who have long inspired the best in us. Compiling the author's decades of research and writing on the subject, *The Diversity Delusion* calls for a return to the classical liberal pursuits of open-minded inquiry and expression, by which everyone can discover a common humanity.

-- Amazon book blurb

Hezbollah: Germany bans and raids Islamist group

Germany has banned all activity by the Islamist Hezbollah movement and police have carried out raids on four mosques and centres linked to the group.

Until now the political wing of the Shia Lebanese group, backed by Iran, was able to operate on German soil while its military arm was banned.

Hezbollah - which means Party of God - wields considerable power in Lebanon and is seen as a key supporter of its current government. It has been blamed for numerous attacks against Israel, the US and Jewish figures and institutions.

The EU has Hezbollah's military wing on its list of terror organisations but not its political wing. Earlier this year the US ambassador to Berlin accused the EU of maintaining an "artificial distinction" between the two parts.

The UK dropped the distinction in 2019, saying it could no longer distinguish between the two. The Netherlands, Japan, the US and Canada are among other countries that ban both wings.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer made the decision after assessing that the Shia group was behind "a multitude of attacks resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries worldwide".

The ban will enable authorities to put a stop to anti-Israel marches and the use of anti-Semitic slogans, observers say. Hezbollah flags and anti-Israel banners often appear at the annual al-Quds march in Berlin.

Hezbollah has some 1,000 activists in Germany.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said it was a "valuable and significant step... against terrorism". -- www.bbc.com April 30, 2020

Canada just banned military-style assault weapons after its deadliest mass shooting

After a gunman in Nova Scotia murdered 22 people on April 18 and 19 over 12 hours - the deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a nationwide ban on military-style assault weapons Friday.

"These weapons were designed for one purpose, and one purpose only: To kill the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time," Trudeau said.

The new policy immediately bans the use, purchase, sale, transportation, and import of 1,500 models of assault weapons, like the AR-15, the military-style semiautomatic rifle that has been used in many mass shootings in the US. Trudeau said, "You don't need an AR-15 to bring down a deer."

The shooter used semi-automatic rifles and semi-automatic handguns in his attack, as well as acts of arson.

The announcement has been criticized by Trudeau's political opponents, who argue it will do little to stop people from obtaining assault weapons illicitly.

Currently in Canada, people who wish to purchase firearms must provide character references, undergo background checks, and pass a series of tests. Only then can they receive a firearms license. But the Nova Scotia gunman didn't have a firearms license.

Trudeau ran in part on a gun control platform in 2019, arguing doing so would help reduce violence in cities in particular. Under new rules, owners of banned guns will have a two-year amnesty period during which they can surrender their weapons or sell them to buyers outside Canada if they acquire a permit.

At the end of the amnesty periods, gun owners will either be able to turn their guns in through a buyback program or might be eligible to keep them under a grandfathering process. More information about both programs will be available once legislation codifying the ban is unveiled.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blair has said future legislation will also include policies intended to flag individuals considered too dangerous to own guns, and a framework to ensure gun manufacturers don't circumvent bans by creating new versions of prohibited models.

According to Politico, at least 72,000 people who own over 100,000 banned firearms will be affected.

- www.vox.com May 2, 2020

Hawkins: Canada's Gun Ban Shows What Happens without a 2d Amendment

By AWR Hawkins

If ever there were a case to show the importance of the Second Amendment, it is found in Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's ban on 1,500 different firearms.

Moreover the *Globe and Mail* reported that the prohibitions could be

implemented without legislation. Rather, all that was necessary was a cabinet decision called an "order-in-council."

Of course, the government, in its benevolence, gives the owners a two-year grace period for compliance.

NOTE—Canada does not have a Second Amendment. Canadians cannot rally to "Shall not be infringed" or "Necessary to the security of a free state" or "The right of the people to keep and bear arms." In fact, the University of Sydney's GunPolicy.org observes, "In Canada, the right to private gun ownership is not guaranteed by law."

In other words, gun ownership in Canada is a privilege, not a right.

Here private gun ownership is just the opposite—a right rather than a privilege. And as with all rights, it flows from God rather than government.

Never forget the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The declaration did not say we are endowed by our senators or House members, or by our president or judicial system or by popular vote. Rather, it was our "Creator" who endowed us "with certain unalienable Rights."

Rights are fixed; they are without change just as their source, our Creator, is without change. The freedoms of religion, the press, and assembling are as relevant and real now as they were in 1776. And the same is true for private property rights and rights to personal security protected by the Third and Fourth Amendments.

The right to self-defense, which includes defending ourselves from our own government, *and the right to possess the means to that defense*, are still as real and relevant now as they were when the Second Amendment was ratified on December 15, 1791.

We must treasure this aspect of our American heritage; we must treasure *and defend it* as well. For if we allow the Second Amendment to be mooted, whether by liberal brainwashing, judicial activism, and/or successive gun controls, we run the risk of opening the door to a paradigm clearly on display in Canada; a paradigm in which the right to keep and bear arms is reduced to the privilege of perhaps owning one of the guns that the government approves.

-- www.breitbart.com 2 May 2020

'Gun Controls' Fail: Canadian Mass Murder Prohibited Possessor

By Dean Weingarten

The restrictions Canada has placed on obtaining, keeping, and using firearms failed entirely in the recent mass murder case in Nova Scotia.

From nypost.com: The killer had *at least one run-in with the law. Nova Scotia court records confirm he was ordered to receive counseling for anger management after pleading guilty to assaulting a man in 2001.*

He was placed on probation for nine months, fined \$50 and told to stay away from the man, and also prohibited from owning or possessing a weapon, ammunition or explosive substances.

Mass shootings are relatively rare in Canada. The country overhauled its gun control laws after Marc Lepine shot 14 women and himself to death at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique college in 1989. Before the weekend rampage, that had been Canada's worst mass shooting.

Authorities have not released much information about what firearms the murderer used. We know he took one handgun and magazines from the RCMP officer he killed. The standard issue handgun for the RCMP is the Smith & Wesson 5946 9mm. It is a stainless steel, double action only version of the S&W model 59 series. The magazine holds 15 rounds of ammunition.

It is unlikely the killer used any "military style" semi-automatic rifles, because, if he had, it would have been reported. It would be in Prime Minister Trudeau's interest to have it reported.

Handguns have been tightly controlled in Canada since 1935. It is common for those who push for a disarmed population to use an unrelated crime to push for controls which would have had no effect on the crime being used.

Those who wish a disarmed population are never satisfied. They cannot admit their policies were wrong; a failure always results in a call for more restrictions.

Reducing the number of legal firearms seems to have little effect on the acquisition of firearms for illegal purposes.

India and China have had strict firearms control in effect for many decades. The Small Arms survey shows tens of millions of illegal firearms in both countries.

Brazil has had strict firearms controls, and a relatively small number

of legal guns, yet it has had a very high murder rate with firearms.

In Australia, a jeweler made over a hundred submachine guns for the black market. Similar submachine guns have been made in Canada, and all over the world.

Home and small shop manufacture place a physical limit on how effective gun control can be.

-- gunwatch.blogspot.com May 02, 2020

Americans turn to hunting for food, renewal during pandemic

Elliot, emergency manager at Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, New Mexico, had always wanted to go big game hunting and, with the pandemic spreading, for the first time in his life, despite not owning a rifle or ever having hunted large animals, he put his name in for New Mexico's annual elk permit draw and received a permit to hunt a female elk.

Elliot plans to borrow a rifle and maybe even a horse to carry the elk back to his vehicle after the hunt in November. "I want to make sure it's a clean, humane shot, as much as possible, and get a bunch of food."

Game and fish agencies from Minnesota to New Mexico have reported an increase in either hunting license sales, permit applications, or both this spring.

Indiana saw a 28% jump in turkey license sales during the first week of the season.

Firearm manufacturers have reported sales increases, and the FBI carried out 3.74 million background checks in March, a record for any month.

That followed a 255,000 fall in the number of hunters between 2016 and 2020, based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service license data, a 2% fall, as fewer young people took up the activity, hunting advocates say.

Hank Forester of Quality Deer Management Association expects a resurgence after many Americans saw empty meat shelves at the grocery store for the first time during March and April.

Some states such as Washington and Illinois closed state lands as the virus spread, prompting the National Rifle Association to lobby governors to keep them open to allow people to hunt for food.

Officials in Washington issued 10 poaching charges between March 25 and April 26, more than three times

the number handed out during the same period a year ago, the state's fish and wildlife department reported.

Nina Stafford, 42, from Fayetteville, Georgia, killed her first deer in January. She described the experience as "thrilling, exciting and remorseful for the deer."

"The coronavirus has only made me want to go and do it more so that I don't have that scared feeling of where's my next meal going to come from," said Stafford, who also grows vegetables and fruit.

Wildlife ecologists fear the turkey's existing population decline will steepen this spring.

Turkey hunter numbers in wildlife management areas in Georgia increased 47% this year from 2019 while turkeys killed during the first 23 days of the season rose 26%, despite no recent increase in bird numbers.

Not all states have reported an increase in hunting license applications, both California and Florida seeing declines.

Still, big game such as deer and antelope could see similar pressure in the fall as hunters have more time to reach kill limits, which in the case of Louisiana is 6 deer per season, and 12 in Georgia, the ecologists said.

Elliot sees no downside to paying \$60 for a tag that could allow him to get close to 200 pounds (91 kg) of meat, if he can get a cow elk. "It's not just because what's going on in the world right now. Frankly I don't make that much money," said Elliott, who plans to split the meat with an experienced-hunter friend who will accompany him. – Reuters May 3, 2020

Prince Harry Sells His Hunting Rifles and Quits Hunting

The Sun is reporting that Prince Harry has sold his hunting rifles to please his wife, Meghan Markle. He sold his handmade rifles before the couple left the United Kingdom and left for Canada and eventually the United States. The firearms are worth about £50,000.

Prince Harry has a history of hunting but various reports have said he's pulled back since his marriage. Dr. Jane Goodall said of Harry and his brother William, "They hunt and shoot. But I think Harry will stop because Meghan doesn't like hunting."

Click to sign this petition to end trophy hunting! --
onegreenplanet.org May 7, 2020

Six takeaways from Reuters investigation of police violence and 'qualified immunity'

– Even as cellphone video taken by bystanders has turned a national spotlight on extreme police tactics, the qualified immunity doctrine - painstakingly erected over the years by the U.S. Supreme Court - is making it easier for officers to kill or injure civilians with impunity.

– The Supreme Court's decisions have had far-reaching effects that tilt the scales in favor of officers. Reuters conducted the first-ever comprehensive review of hundreds of appeals filed in excessive force cases in federal courts. We found that police won 56% of cases in which they claimed qualified immunity from 2017 through 2019. That's up sharply from the three prior years, when they won 43% of the time.

– Even when U.S. courts confirm cops violated a victim's civil rights, police can still escape liability. That's because the Supreme Court has continually raised the bar for challenges to the qualified immunity defense. Reuters found dozens of examples of this.

– Cops win these cases so often that plaintiffs' lawyers say they are reluctant to take on clients harmed in violent encounters with police.

– A growing chorus, spanning the political spectrum, is calling for the Supreme Court to make changes. Among the critics are two of the court's own justices: the liberal Sonia Sotomayor and the conservative Clarence Thomas. Sotomayor, in a 2018 dissent, wrote that the court's decision favoring cops sends a dangerous signal: "They can shoot first and think later, and it tells the public that palpably unreasonable conduct will go unpunished."

– The high court is now indicating it is aware of the outcry over qualified immunity. Multiple appeals backed by the doctrine's critics have piled up before the Supreme Court. The justices are scheduled to discuss privately as soon as May 15 which, if any, of 11 such cases they could hear later this year. – Reuters May 8, 2020

The Strange Bedfellows of Professor Panic

Professor Neil Ferguson of Imperial College in London started the Great Panic of 2020 with a thoroughly flawed computer model that was

thoroughly unfit for scientific use. Was he instead virtue-signalling to his radical left-wing married lover? - TN Editor

A LOT of attention has been given to Professor Neil Ferguson's dubious track record on epidemics and his equally dubious judgment in meeting his lover during the [Corona virus] lockdown introduced on his own advice.

There are two especially significant elements crying out for independent investigation: the quality and reliability of Ferguson's computer model, and the political affiliations of his lover.

Mark E Jeftovic, in his *Axis of Easy* website, believes the most worrisome outcome of the model review is that the code produces 'non-deterministic outputs'. This means that owing to bugs, the code can produce very different results given identical inputs, making the code unsuitable for scientific purposes. Jeftovic says that a team even found that the output varied depending on *which type of computer* it was run on.

Another expert, Martin Armstrong (who has a controversial record) also reviews the Ferguson model code and says that it 'is the most inept piece of programming I have ever seen. . . . The only reasonable conclusion I can reach is that this has been deliberately used to justify bogus forecasts intent for political activism There seems to have been no independent review of Ferguson's work, which is unimaginable!'

Which leads us neatly to the second facet of the affair – the actual 'affair' and the politically radical lover. Professor Ferguson, 51, who is estranged from his wife, is reported to have used the match-finding website OkCupid to meet Antonia Staats, 38, currently married and living with her husband and two children. Ms Staats is a Left-wing campaigner who works for the US-based online network Avaaz, an organisation that promotes global activism on, among other things, climate change. The *Guardian* has called Avaaz the globe's largest and most powerful online activist network, with a world-wide following of around 10 million people. It is loosely connected with Bill Gates, through the World Economic Forum, which also lists Al Gore and Christine Lagarde on its board. Staats works as a senior campaigner on climate change for the group, and is said to be sympathetic towards the aims of Extinction Rebellion. Indirectly, on the surface at least, this ties Ferguson to climate

change, a cause that the lockdown has served very well by managing to shut down the world economy.

Surely it is now time for some genuinely tech-savvy analysis to be carried out on the source coding underlying the doom-laden, and for many of us deeply disturbing, predictions about the forthcoming climate catastrophe? Might it turn out to be just as questionable?

-- conservativewoman.uk.co May 13, 2020

Extinction Rebellion (abbreviated as XR) is a global environmental movement with the stated aim of using nonviolent civil disobedience to compel government action to avoid tipping points in the climate system, biodiversity loss, and the risk of social and ecological collapse. Extinction Rebellion was established in the United Kingdom in May 2018 with about one hundred academics signing a call to action. – Wikipedia

Why is Elon Musk telling us to 'take the red pill'?

In the 1999 sci-fi thriller *Matrix*, Keanu Reeves' character, Neo, is offered the choice of a red pill or a blue pill by the rebel leader Morpheus (played by Laurence Fishburne).

The red pill is to be taken ... In order to see the truth, however harsh that might turn out to be.

If Neo takes the blue pill, the story ends, according to Morpheus. "You wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe." Continue to live in the simulated reality of the *Matrix*, in other words.

Whereas if you take the red pill ... You stay in Wonderland," says Morpheus. "And I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes." Reality, in short, even if reality can be hard.

Rabbit hole, I'm sniffing a whiff of Alice in Wonderland, no? Good olfaction. Lewis Carroll's dreamworld is getting a clear nod. A red pill also pops up in the 1990 sci-fi movie *Total Recall*, also as a way to reality.

Why are we talking about it? The red pill isn't going to cure Covid-19,

is it? Probably not. But since *The Matrix*'s release, the term has been co-opted by the "alt-right", men's rights groups and conspiracy theorists. And now Elon Musk.

Space colonist and maker of electric cars Musk has called California's coronavirus shutdown "fascist" and threatened to reopen his Tesla factory. "Take the red pill," he tweeted to his 34 million followers.

Any responses? Well, most notably from Ivanka Trump. "Taken!" she responded, retweeting Musk's message.

What about the codirector of *The Matrix*, Lilly Wachowski? She must be pleased to see her film back in the spotlight? Not so much. Wachowski responded by swearing at the pair and tweeting a link to the Brave Space Alliance, an LGBTQ support centre led by black and transgender people.

Not a fan of the famous new red pill-poppers, then? Seems not. And Musk's partner's mum wasn't pleased either. Grimes's mother, Sandy Garossino, reportedly accused him of "blaring MRA [men's rights activist] bullshit", in a now-deleted tweet. -- www.theguardian.com/2020/may/18

Revealed: Amazon funds/partners with far-left hate group Southern Poverty Law Center

A startling investigation has revealed that Amazon is funding the hyper-liberal Southern Poverty Law Center through the AmazonSmile customer giving program. Further, Amazon lets the SPLC act as a gatekeeper, which means SPLC denies Amazon customers the ability to give to politically conservative organizations. Amazon allows donations to liberal organizations that include SPLC itself, which is the 33rd largest recipient of AmazonSmile contributions. The National Center for Public Policy Research has placed a proposal on Amazon's annual shareholder vote to end the injustice of SPLC both controlling and benefiting from the AmazonSmile program.

AmazonSmile's last filed 990 form, which is required of all charitable organizations, shows that in fiscal 2018, AmazonSmile delivered some \$44 million to nonprofits, by allowing customers to earmark 1/2 of 1% of their purchases to these groups. Since 2017 AmazonSmile has let the SPLC to control access to these funds through their "hate list," which they have acknowledged is intended to inflict economic discrimination on organizations they put on the list, in an effort to stigmatize and eliminate mainstream conservative thought.

In 2016, SPLC paid nearly \$3.4 million to British political activist Maajid Nawaz after they named him to their "hate list" as an "anti-Muslim extremist." Author Laird Wilcox described the SPLC's fundraising efforts as a "disinformation campaign." The *Montgomery Advertiser*, where SPLC is headquartered, interviewed former staff attorneys, including one who said of SPLC, "It plays on a mentality unconnected with reality... It's a scheme. It's a joke."

SPLC sits atop a \$592 million endowment, of which over \$160 million is maintained in offshore accounts, with no explanation and no oversight of how these funds are held or used. Their ostentatious and massive headquarters, long dubbed the "Poverty Palace," for the way their own enrichment has come at the expense of those the SPLC claims to assist.

All of this has raised new opposition for this year's shareholder meeting. The NCPP, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting free markets, has advanced a shareholder proposal for this year's meeting on May 27th that would compel Amazon to account for the costs of being attached to the partisan SPLC.

To date, Amazon will not comment on why they allow SPLC to both control access to the AmazonSmile program and simultaneously benefit from it themselves. --- breitbart.com 2020/05/19

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

ISSN 1523-4657

Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". Or do a google search for "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email.

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